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In November election

Coleman will run for supervisor's seat again

Horace W. Coleman, Jr., of 7 Springs Farm, Pamplin, has announced that he will be a candidate for the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors from the Clover Hill District in the November general election, seeking re-election as an Independent.

Horace W. Coleman, Jr.

He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in November 1979, and his current term will expire Dec. 31, 1983.

Coleman, who is currently chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has been very active in public and community service in Appomattox County and in Central Virginia.

Included among his many official positions in recent years are chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Social Services, vice-chairman of the Appomattox County Planning Commission, chairman of the Central Virginia Commission on Aging, member of the Human Resources Policy Committee of the National Association of Regional Councils, and member of the Appomattox County Developmental Corporation.

Coleman has served as president of the Pamplin Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, chaplain of the Southside Masonic Lodge, past president and two-term zone governor for the Pamplin Ruritan Club, junior warden and chairman of the Building Committee of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, and in a variety of other official and civic capacities.

Coleman was instrumental in development of the Pamplin Community Center, and while he was serving as president of the Pamplin Ruritan Club from 1977 through July of 1982, the balance of the $25,000 bank note for the community facility was paid off.

He also assumed a very active role in transferring ownership of the old Pamplin Elementary School building to the Town of Pamplin, paving the way for location of a garment factory in the building.

Coleman also was very much involved in development of the county's long-term plan for elderly care, as mandated by Senate Bill 219 last year.

Coleman is married with five children and 21 grandchildren.

In summing up his reasons for running for re-election, Coleman notes "I have worked with the other members of the Board of Supervisors toward the goal of keeping the county well governed and progressive, as promised when I was a candidate for this office in 1979.

"If elected, I will continue that goal."

MEMBERS OF ARTHUR HASKINS' planting crew carefully place pine seedlings on a parcel of land that was recently burned over. The crew places the seedlings so that there will be approximately 800 trees per acre. After the first frost in the fall, foresters make an inspection of the planted area, to determine if enough trees have survived to consider the parcel a plantation.

School board meeting set

The Appomattox County School Board will meet Wednesday (March 16) at 3:30 p.m. in the school board office on Main Street, Appomattox.

Heading the list of agenda items is consideration of the school division budget for the 1983-84 session.

The board will also consider revising the school division calendar for the current year, and discuss the division calendar for the 1983-84 session.

Lions to meet

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday, March 10 at 6:45 p.m. at the Country Fare Restaurant.

Ernie Johnson with the Virginia Department of Transportation Safety will be the guest speaker.

All members are urged to attend.

Sam Kerr says he won't be candidate next fall

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

William S. (Sam) Kerr, Commonwealth's Attorney for Appomattox County for the past 11 years announced today that he will not seek re-election for the positon in this coming November election.

Kerr was appointed in 1972 by Judge George F. Abbitt, Jr., to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Harry G. Lawson, who left the position of Commonwealth's Attorney to accept a position out of state.

"During the 11 years that I have been in office, the case load and the responsibilities have greatly increased," said Kerr. "As many of you know, I am the only elected constitutional officer whose job is part-time, that is, I can maintain a private practice of law in addition to my office as Commonwealth's Attorney and County Attorney."

"Over the past few years, both of these jobs have increased their demands on my time until the point has finally come that I am unable to devote sufficient time both to my private practice and to my job as Commonwealth's Attorney," said Kerr.

November 1983 marks the selection of the position of Commonwealth's Attorney for another four year term," and after many months of consideration and soul-searching, I have decided not to offer for re-election as your Commonwealth's Attorney," said Kerr.

Kerr, who plans to continue his private law practice in Appomattox County had this to say about leaving the position of Commonwealth's Attorney, "I make this decision with a sense of regret that I will not be able to offer my services to the citizens of this county and the people of this state in prosecuting criminal matters and in representing the County of Appomattox.I have had the privilege of serving with a fine group of constitutional officers and with a dedicated group of county employees and court personnel."

"I have found the citizens of this county to be understanding, cooperative, and helpful to me during my 11 years," Kerr added.

"I hope that I have, in some way, over these years, given back to this community some payment for the trust and confidence that the people have shown in electing me on three different occasions to this position," he said. "I hope I will, in other ways and in other endeavors, be able to serve the people of this county and assist in county government," Kerr concluded.

A native of Roanoke, Kerr made his home in Appomattox a good many years while his father served as principal of Appomattox High School. A graduate of the University of Richmond Law School, he is married to the former Anne Abbitt. They are the parents of two daughters, Amy and Anne.

Kerr is President-Elect of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys and he and his family are members of St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

William S. (Sam) Kerr

Future forests beginning now

By BILL SHERROD

The landscape resembles the scene of a ferocious Vietnam firefight: burned over, charred -- all standing vegetation has been leveled.

But in a few short years, this same scorched parcel of Appomattox County land will be the site of a thriving, healthy pine plantation.

In recent years, pine plantations have become an increasingly popular method of land management in Appomattox County.

The soil in Appomattox County is ideal for loblolly pines, and each year more acres are seeded in pine by private concerns such as Westvaco and Continental Can, and by individuals with the help of the state's Division of Forestry.

A state planting operation was underway recently on a 71-acre parcel of land along the southeastern border of the county.

The burned-over landscape, reminiscent of so many war movies, is the first step in the creation of a pine plantation. Wayne Bowman, Appomattox County forester, notes that there are a number of methods of clearing a parcel of land for planting, but cutting followed by burning, when possible, is the cheapest.

The seedlings which are used in the planting are about a foot in length, and are grown at the state's nursery near Providence Forge, or at a smaller nursery at Augusta.

It takes about a year at the nursery for the seeds to grow to the popular planting length. When they are harvested at that state of development, they are graded, dipped in clay for moisture retention, grouped in bundles of 1,000, then put in cold storage until needed.

When a landowner decides he wants a pine plantation, he contacts a planting crew and makes arrangements with the state Division of Forestry to purchase the trees. "We use two crews in Appomattox County, points out county forester Russell Clark. "Arthur Haskins leads one of the crews, and Arnold Daniels has the

(Continued on page 8)

Firemen are musicians

By BILL SHERROD

When they're not making music, chances are you'll find them fighting fires: five of the six members of "Dutchman's Branch," a new band in the Concord area, are members of the Concord Volunteer Fire Department.

The band, which plays country, gospel, and bluegrass music, was formed in September, according to Tom Shupe, chief of the fire department and the band's drummer.

"The name comes from a creek all the band members live near," says Shupe. John Martin, rhythm guitar player, is the only member of Dutchman's Branch who is not a member of the fire department, but his father is a fireman.

The Concord department's assistant chief, Gerald Inge, is the band's mandoline player and bass singer, Kenny Lawhorne, a firefighter and treasurer of the department, plays banjo for the band. Gary Martin, John's cousin and a regular firefighter in the Concord Fire Department, is lead singer and rhythm guitarist for the group. Tom Harvey, bass player and tenor vocalist, is a director in the fire department.

Like many local musical groups, Dutchman's Branch was formed "for fun," and to provide a vehicle for helping community groups and clubs, according to Shupe. "We're not doing this for money," he notes. "We do it because we enjoy the music and we enjoy helping local organizations make money."

The group will be one of four performing at a Concord Elementary School PTA fundraiser March 19 at 7:30 p.m. The other groups include Rocky Run Express, the Three-In-One Gospel Group,, and the Country Line Band.

"We've played at a couple of church functions, and we hve a couple of tentative engagements planned," Shupe said, and the band helped the Concord PTA raise money at their fundraising event last fall, Shupe adds.

Shupe, who owns Enterprise Lighting, is the only band member not originally from the Central Virginia area. He hails from Pocahontas, Va.

Inge is a senior technician at Babcock and Wilcox, Lawhorne is a machinist at Meredith-Burda, Tom Harvey owns Harvey's Grading Service, Gary Martin works at United Parcel Service, and John Martin, Gary's cousin, is a student at Rustburg High School.

The Martins, who both took guitar lessons for three years, have been concentrating on bluegrass together the last six months. While they played rock and roll during the period when they were taking lessons, Gary notes that they both have "always liked gluegrass."

Lawhorne, who has been playing one musical instrument or another for 15 years, has concentrated on the banjo for the past three years. He played with the Happy Hollow Boys, an Altavista band, for a while, but found that the driving was too much and gave it up. In addition to banjo, Lawhorne plays harmonica for Dutchman's Branch when called for.

Shupe, the drummer, and Inge, the mandoline player and bass singer, also have played with other bands before. Shupe performed

(Continued on page 5)

MEMBERS OF DUTCHMAN's BRANCH include (front) John Martin, and (back, from left) Gerald Inge, Ken Lawhorne, Tom Shupe, Tom Harvey, Gary Martin. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Greetings from Martha Street, Appomattox, on a rather wet Monday morning. On the way to fetch the morning paper I stepped over three earthworms. Reports of a light thunder storm Sunday night. I slept through it. Some fog. Glad to have warmer weather. Easter Sunday is April 3 and April 9, Appomattox's Day in History, is on a Saturday. I plan to wear a gray coat and blue slacks. Ah yes, the Ides of March, March 15, the day Julius Caesar was killed, 44 B.C. This time of year encourages new activity. The late Sachel Paige, celebrated baseball pitcher, is said to have remarked, "Don't look back, someone may be gaining on you." I say, Look Ahead, you may be gaining on anyone in front. But some of us are going to be late gardeners this year. My garden spot is low and therefore wet. May be August before have radishes. But it is about time for tobacco plant beds.

* * *

Went to the Town Office to get the new town auto licenses, now on sale. Gee, my number is 13. But to show it is not always unlucky and also that our town officials give service, Mayor Ronald Spiggle and his assistant came out and put the new license on the car. Should have had a camera. Thanks. Next morning I found a penny in a store parking lot. Have a special box to save found pennies.

Thanks to Mrs. John Sam Martin for sending me a copy of **The Webster Echo**, a live weekly paper at Webster Springs, W. Va. News from Erbacon, Gauley Mills, Gowen, Fairmont, Diana and announcement of the big Hacker Valley Ramp Supper to be held April 16. Have never eaten Ramps, a sort of wild onion that grows in West Virginia and is famous for its strong taste.

* * *

A Bible reference mentioned in last week's column should have been Isaish 28:20 instead of 28:28. And in a penciled note in one of my late Mother's Bibles I found a memo which asked, Where and how many times does the word Cheese appear in the Bible. I found three. Also, Is the word Easter in the Bible?

* * *

Getting time for yard sales. Have had all winter to round up items one would sell.

* * *

Sports item? Exhibition game, New York Yankees 2, Orioles 1.

And another salute to the ACHS Raider basketball team. Lost to Martinsville is a big championship game, but the year's record was outstanding and worthy of praise.

* * *

Bro. Horace Coleman was telling me about his interest in birds and feeding them.

Lawnmowers are being brought out and made ready for Spring chores. I am lazy about such things and will think up excuses.

* * *

Reading. I am reading a most interesting religious book. Over fifty outstanding ministers were asked to submit manuscripts for a book to be called: If I Had Only One Sermon to Preach. The book contains their sermons.

* *

Thanks for reading and seeya around.

County decals on sale

County Decals went on sale in the Appomattox County Treasurer's Office, Tuesday, March 1, 1983. These must be purchased by March 31.

The forms have changed so in order to buy the decals you MUST bring your state registration card. The price of the decal is $10.00.

The Treasurer's Office will be open each week day and for your convenience will open on the last two Saturdays, March 19 and March 26, from 8:30 to 12:00.

Remember, you MUST bring your state registration card in order to purchase them.

Supervisors to meet

The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors will meet in regular session on Friday, March 11 at 9 a.m. in the board room.

On Monday, March 14, the Board of Supervisors will meet again in an evening session beginning at 7 p.m. If any individual or group would like to appear before the board at the evening session an appointment may be made by calling Mrs. Barbara Williams at the Clerk's Office, phone 352-5275, prior to March 10.

The Annual Road Hearing will not be held at the Friday morning meeting; a date for the hearing will be announced at a later time.